

# Mrs. Tolin

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts

### Class Syllabus



Mrs. Tolin's email address: [Anna.Tolin@nordoniaschools.org](mailto:Anna.Tolin@nordoniaschools.org)  
Mrs. Tolin's class website: [MrsTolin.wikispaces.com](http://MrsTolin.wikispaces.com) Twitter: @MrsTolin

#### GENERAL COURSE OF STUDY:

##### Literature:

- Summer Reading: *Nothing But the Truth* by Avi
- *Story of My Life* by Helen Keller
- *Miracle's Boys* by Jacqueline Woodson
- "Thank You M'am" and "I Too Sing America" by Langston Hughes
- "Tell Tale Heart" and "Annabel Lee" by Edgar Allan Poe
- *Soul Surfer* by Bethany Hamilton
- "Harriet Tubman: Guide to Freedom" by Ann Petry
- "O Captain My Captain" by Walt Whitman
- "I Had a Dream" speech by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- "The Hitchhiker" by Lucille Fletcher
- "Sorry, Wrong Number" by Lucille Fletcher
- "A Poem for My Librarian, Mrs. Lang" by Nikki Giovanni
- "A Retrieved Reformation" by O'Henry
- "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost
- "Identity" by Julio Naboia Polanco
- *Titanic: Voices from the Disaster* by Deborah Hopkinson

##### Vocabulary: Word Wisdom (Level H)

In a typical 5-day school week, we will adhere to the following outlined schedule for our Word Wisdom study:

- Mondays- pretests; assess current knowledge. Introduce new words, prefixes, roots and/or suffixes. Study and apply context clue strategy; HW assigned for the week
- Wednesdays -first half of Unit part HW is due
- Thursdays- second half of Unit part HW is due; correct all answers; review
- Fridays- 10-word posttest; demonstrate mastery and new knowledge
- Each WW unit has 4 "Parts". Parts 1-3 each contain 10 new words. Part 4 of every unit is a Review Unit; Unit 4's Posttest is a cumulative 30-words test.

#### A FEW NOTES ABOUT THE COURSE OF STUDY:

The 2013-2014 school year will be the first implementation of Nordon Middle School's 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Common Core State Standards-based Curriculum map. With this in mind, please be aware that some amendments may be necessary and may change the general course of study noted above. All changes will be announced as soon as possible.

- Please note: the new curriculum map differs greatly from last year's 2012-2013 curriculum. Students and parents (*and perhaps teachers too!* 😊) will need to prepare for a bit of an adjustment to the new material and its demands. Students should "mentally prepare" themselves for the reality that they will be responsible for completing independent reading in and outside of class to better facilitate, support and enhance their mastery of these standards. For more information about Common Core, please visit: <http://www.corestandards.org/resources/frequently-asked-questions>

#### REQUIRED *DAILY* MATERIALS:

- ☐ College-ruled notebook paper
- ☐ Pencils
- ☐ Small pencil sharpener with shaving collector
- ☐ Highlighter
- ☐ Multi-colored pack of Index cards (quant. 100)
- ☐ Pens: blue or black pen **USED FOR ALL WORK THAT WILL BE TURNED IN**

## LATE/ MISSING WORK:

- **When it's due:** The opportunity to earn full credit on any homework assignment is only possible for work submitted at the time it is collected by the teacher (submitting it at the end of the day is not considered "on time").
- **1 Day Late:** Homework assignments submitted within 1 day after its due date will earn 1/2 credit (ie: later on the same day it was due, or on the next day).
- **More than 1 day late:** NO homework assignment will be accepted for credit 2 or more days after its due date (ie. If the 10-point assignment was due on Monday, it's worth 5 points on Tuesday, but will not be accepted on Wednesday.)
- **Exceptions:** Extended writing assignments, major class assignments; other circumstances that will be otherwise-announced in class, or homework assigned while the student was absent (see "Absences" below for more information).

## ABSENCES:

*Please refer to page 7 of Student Handbook*

- When a student is absent, **IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY** to find out what he/she missed. This may be done by checking ProgressBook, visiting Mrs. Tolin's wiki page, emailing Mrs. Tolin, asking another peer and/or checking the HW board when he/she returns to school. For additional help with missed instruction and/or additional copies of missed work, it is the student's responsibility to contact Mrs. Tolin and make necessary arrangements.
- **Students will receive the number of days he/she was absent +1 day to submit absent/make-up work.** For example, if a student was absent on Monday and Tuesday (2 days), he/she is expected to turn in all missing work by the following Monday (2 additional days +1).
- **Assignments that were assigned prior to the student's absence and due on the day of a student's absence are expected to be submitted for credit immediately upon his/her return to school.** Failure to do so will be considered late.
- **All missing tests & quizzes must be made up** within a reasonable time frame (less than one week). Students will not be eligible to make up any Word Wisdom quizzes after the Unit 4 (30 word) test has been issued. Students may make-up quizzes or tests during their Intervention period, lunch period and before or after school. Students will typically NOT be given class time to make up quizzes from an absence, as that only causes them to miss more class instruction.
- Parents/guardians should contact the main office to **request an Assignment Sheet** for students who need to miss more than 1 day of school: (330) 467-0584.
- **Please keep in mind that absences can quickly become a serious disadvantage to one's success in a class, and should be avoided as much as possible. On the other hand, if you're sick—keep your germs at home please, and get well soon ☺**



## GRADING:

### Scale:

100-90 A

89-80 B

79-70 C

69-60 D

Below 60 - Not passing

### Weight—*please refer to page 11 in Student handbook for more info.*

Homework: practice and extension of lessons = 10% of grade

Formal assessments: tests, quizzes, essays, projects = 90% of grade



## HALL PASSES:

- Hall passes will be issued infrequently on a strictly as-needed basis to students who have their agenda books with them. **DO NOT** expect to be allowed to go to your locker or use the restroom while during instruction or during a test/quizz. Use the restroom or stop at your locker before class. If you're going to be tardy, report to class first and get your teacher's permission first. Otherwise, if you go to the restroom before class without my permission and arrive late, you will be marked tardy.

*...more on Hall Passes- next page*

### Hall Pass (continued):

- Students on this team are permitted to use their agenda hall passes no more than five times in a week — from any teacher! Use them sparingly!

### TARDY POLICY & CLASS DISMISSAL:

- **Tardy to School:** Students who arrive to their Intervention classroom after 8:00 a.m. will be sent to the office to receive a tardy slip. Tardiness is recorded on attendance reports, reported on students' report cards & becomes a part of a student's permanent record.
- **Tardy to class:** Class will begin each period at its designated posted time. Mrs. Tolin's computer clock will sound an alarm at the beginning and end of each period. Students are **expected to be in their seats when the alarm is done going off.** Anyone who enters the class after that (or is continuously late in sitting down before the alarm) will need to sign the tardy sheet that is located on the table near the door.

1<sup>st</sup> tardy = "Warning"

2<sup>nd</sup> tardy = lunch detention in O.R.

3<sup>rd</sup> tardy in one marking period will result in a Wednesday or Saturday detention.

### GUIDELINES FOR APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR:

1. Arrive to class on time.
2. Come prepared with all class supplies & materials.
3. Raise your hand to be addressed prior to speaking out loud.
4. Respect the speaker—whether it's the teacher, a visitor or another peer.
5. Always do your BEST—anything less is a waste of your effort.
6. Participate; get involved; ask questions! ☺
7. Remain in your seat during instruction & until you are dismissed.
8. Leave the attitude & any negativity at the door.
9. R-E-S-P-E-C-T yourself, others and your surroundings.
10. Do not interfere with the teacher's ability to teach and any student's ability to learn!!!!!!



### CONSEQUENCES FOR NOT FOLLOWING THESE GUIDELINES:

- ❖ Warning--- your name will be written on teacher clipboard (MORE INFO T.B.D. IN CLASS ABOUT THE CLIPBOARD)
- ❖ 5-minute "cool down" in the hallway and reflection form
- ❖ Opportunity Room (O.R.)
- ❖ Lunch detention
- ❖ Phone call or letter home
- ❖ Conference with Team Teachers
- ❖ Wednesday or Saturday detention
- ❖ Parent-Teacher conference
- ❖ Office referral & subsequent action as necessary

### INCENTIVES FOR INDIVIDUAL & CLASS COOPERATION OR PERFORMANCE:

- ★ Phone call or letter home
- ★ "Knight Way Right Way" nomination
- ★ Time in class to complete homework
- ★ Music during seat or computer work
- ★ Special topics day
- ★ Homework pass
- ★ Give demonstration to class
- ★ Pick your own groups/seats
- ★ Submit your suggestion... ☺

## A PORTION TO DETACH & KEEP AT HOME:

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts- Mrs. Tolin

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Teacher Contact Information:

Email: [Anna.Tolin@nordoniaschools.org](mailto:Anna.Tolin@nordoniaschools.org)

Follow me on Twitter: @MrsTolin

Teacher class website: [MrsTolin.wikispaces.com](http://MrsTolin.wikispaces.com) \*lesson plans, HW assignments, additional study tools and extra copies of class handouts may be downloadable on this website. Please check it out!! ☺

#### Dear Parents/Guardians:

Hello! I look forward to getting to know you and your child this school year and working with each of you. Thank you for taking the time to carefully study our class syllabus. Your son/daughter should keep it in his/her Language Arts binder for easy reference. If you haven't done so already, please be sure to detach this page and keep the top portion at home for your own records.

It is likely that you will receive an email, home postcard and/or a phone call throughout the school year. Please don't let this concern you. It is my intent to keep you informed about your son/daughter's behavior and progress in class, and also to share positive news with you! In the lower portion of this form, please be sure to provide your most current (and preferred) method to be contacted.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns throughout the school year, and I will do my best to respond as quickly as possible (typically within 24 hours).

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Tolin



CUT HERE

RETURN BOTTOM PORTION -



## A PORTION TO DETACH & RETURN TO SCHOOL WITH STUDENT:

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts- Mrs. Tolin

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S NAME:

\_\_\_\_\_ (print) \_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

Phone number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ preferred method to be contacted (check box)

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ preferred method to be contacted (check box)

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S NAME:

\_\_\_\_\_ (print) \_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

Phone number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ preferred method to be contacted (check box)

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

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COMMENTS/QUESTIONS FOR MRS. TOLIN:

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